

that the tendency of Senator Wickersham has been to minimize the importance of this particular vote. And I just want to emphasize to you that this is the heart of the matter, this is probably the most important amendment you'll be asked to vote on, and your most important vote on this bill, other than the vote to advance or not to advance altogether. It involves a very significant chunk of money. You may remember, those of you who were here a couple years ago, we argued the option hold-harmless portion of the bill? Remember, we argued that, what, three days, four days? How long was it? Long time. You know how much money that involved? What was it 3 million, \$4 million? This involves ten times that amount of money on the question, again, of equalization and whether you believe in that principle or you don't believe in that principle. The other thing that I wanted just to comment upon, Senator Wickersham suggested, yesterday, that there were other aspects of the formula that were uncertain or questionable. And I think that most of us who are on the Education Committee would agree that that's true. But this is the old legislative problem, do you try to fix the whole thing at once, or do you pick out a part of it and fix that and move on to the next part of it and fix that? And those of you who have been around awhile know the dilemmas of that problem and it is simply the political dilemma, if you try to fix it all at once, especially on something as complicated as this formula, and I think everybody would admit that this is complicated, if you try to address it all at once, all will end in confusion, all will be lost, nothing will be accomplished. You need to pick out one part of the formula at a time, say what you believe on it, do what you believe on it, and address the matter. Senator Wickersham said, well look at impact aid. Impact aid is not counted as a resource, primarily, for Bellevue, but there's nothing that we can do about that. I mean it's almost suggesting that we should make some kind of law against tornados. You know, it's equally out of our power so long as the federal government makes a law about the distribution of impact aid. So I don't think we should be deterred from doing the right thing, insofar as we can do the right thing, just because one particular school district essentially gets a better deal from it all because the federal government is protecting them. Similarly with the single tier system problem, there are legitimate questions about that, and that is something we can do something about. But I just ask you to consider the philosophy of what makes sense for us now, to try to deal with the whole thing, or to pick out one obvious,